

Arts in the Parks

Ouabache State Park Property Profile

Website: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2975.htm>

Key Messages/Stories:

- Ouabache was established as a State Park in 1962 after previously being the Wells County Game Preserve where many different species of animals (mostly indigenous) were raised for release throughout the state. An American Bison exhibit is still here today on approximately 20 acres and visitors are able to view these creatures up-close.
- Cultural History of the Area – Much of the property was developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, including the roads, Kunkel Lake, and approximately half of the existing buildings.
- Natural beauty – There is one nature preserve in the park that exhibits beautiful oak/hickory forest. Hiking trails are mostly wooded in areas of both hardwood and pine forests. The Wabash River is the southern boundary of the park and offers some scenic views. Wildlife abounds in the park.

Top Five Things to Do:

- Hike around live American Bison exhibit
- Climb Fire Tower (after rehab is complete; currently closed)
- Hike Trail 5 (perimeter trail)
- Bike the bike trail
- Rent a boat and explore Kunkel Lake

Lodging: Camping in Electric Sites, Youth Tent Camping

General visitor profile: Campers (weekends or weeklong); day-users for picnics, hiking, swimming, and family events—weddings, reunions, etc.; school groups in spring/summer; scout and other groups for volunteer service; local volunteers assisting with park maintenance

Potential arts venues:

- Pool field, natural amphitheater. Lawn seating only, electricity available. Subject to seasonal rains.
- Various shelter houses:
 - Lodge Recreation Building: capacity 100, electricity, kitchen, bathrooms indoors, enclosed, large lawn
 - Trails End Shelter: Capacity approx 50, electricity, indoor restrooms, partially enclosed
 - Rustic Oak Shelter: Capacity approx 50, electricity, indoor restrooms, partially enclosed
 - Lakeside Shelter: Capacity approx 25, some electricity, pit toilets 150 yards, roof, no walls; large lawn area and some parking
 - Campview Shelter: Capacity approx 100, electricity, comfort station nearby, enclosed—in campground



Visitation in FY2014: 221,736

Nearby Communities: Bluffton, Huntington, Wabash, Montpelier, Ossian, Decatur, Berne, Fort Wayne

Please email questions to Artsintheparks@dnr.IN.gov.

